

P.S. This letter is written on my knee at 4 A.M. to come by mail.

NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE
FLOWER AND FIFTH AVENUE HOSPITALS
FIFTH AVENUE AT ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10029

Nov 9. 65

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

Dear Dr. Ledenberg,

Thank you for your recent letter. I was delighted to learn that Jim is working for you. When last I heard from him he was engaged by "Equipment Digital," and I was concerned that he had abandoned the study of medicine to concentrate on the problems of data processing. It is heartening to know that he is in an academic family and I hope may in due course earn a doctorate in philosophy.

Some day when your team may want to hear the details of Avery and Griffith I shall fly out. The story is too long for me to put in a letter. Incidentally, would you care to have a picture of Griffith and Bobby? I had the only one in existence after Fred Griffith was bombed to death, and I sent it to the British at their request. I can send you a rather faded copy. You may be interested to know that while

COBORN

Fred Griffith was alive, I gave Avery
a copy of this snapshot. The Fess
kept it on his desk at the
Rockefeller and later at his home in
hashville throughout all of the
"Transforming" and "post-Transforming" years.
If you may not know, that
whereas Avery was my spiritual
"Advisor", Fred Griffith and I
actually collaborated in 1931. Griffith did
not know the implications of his work
because his job demanded pragmatism.
Avery, on the other hand, envisioned
the whole business of the "Transforming
factor" and its application to the future of genetics. In
fact, he enlightened me on a Sunday
morning's walk through the countryside
(in ? March 1942) a few hours before we
took the snapshot that you have. Fess
had described his findings the day before to
the Trustees of the Rockefeller Inst. & Univ.
Fess was the only man with pure
humility that I was proud to know. In
my spells of excitement he would say
"Al, it may be safer to apply the brakes
than blow the horn" He was 100% free
from seeking credit for accomplishments.
Incidentally, you are probably
well acquainted with the fantastic tale of
the marriage of Beulah and Tatum as
told me by the "Preston" all the best at Auburn